

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 02408 241223Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /079 W

----- 106083

R 241040Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 355

INFO AMCONSULATE ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2251

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS CAIRO 2408

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF, IR

SUBJECT: SADAT INTERVIEW WITH IRANIAN NEWS AGENCY

1. LOCAL PRESS FEBRUARY 24 CARRIES SUMMARY OF SADAT INTERVIEW WITH IRANIAN NEWS AGENCY CONDUCTED PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 21 DEPARTURE FOR SAUDI ARABIA. MAJOR FEATURE OF INTERVIEW IS SADAT COMMENT THAT, IF A RECONVENED MEPC IN GENEVA SHOULD FAIL TO PRODUCE POSITIVE RESULTS AND PROGRESS TOWARD A COMPREHENSIVE ME PEACE SETTLEMENT, THE ARABS WOULD HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE EXCEPT A RETURN TO AS TATE OF WAR WITH ISRAEL.

2. AMONG OTHER POINTS COVERED BY PRESIDENT SADAT IN INTERVIEW: RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS TILL STRAINED DUE TO ARMS SUPPLY QUESTION AND DEBT RESCHEDULING, ALTHOUGH EGYPT ATTEMPTING TO AMELIORATE RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW. IN REGARD TO LIBYA,
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SADAT STATED THAT RELATIONS HAD NOT RETURNED TO NORMAL,

ALTHOUGH PROPAGANDA WAR BETWEEN CAIRO AND TRIPOLI HAD
CEASED AND THIS WAS A GOOD SIGN.

3. COMMENT: MAIN EMPHASIS IN CAIRO PRESS COVERAGE OF INTERVIEW
IS SADAT COMMENT THAT GENEVA FAILURE WOULD LEAD TO RENEWED
STATE OF WAR. THIS APPEAR. THIS APPEARS TO BE STRONGEST REJECTION OF
OTHER COURSES OF ACTION IN EVENT OF STALEMATE OF MEPC YET
VOICED BY SADAT.
EILTS

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NNN

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